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REMARKS

AUG 08 2006

Claims 60-114 remain in the application. The Examiner believes that five distinct and independent inventions are claimed, and therefore has required restriction between the five inventions, identified respectively as Group I, claims 60-93 and 104-114, Group II, claims 94-96, Group III, claim 97, Group IV, claims 98 and 101-103 and Group V, claims 99-100. The Examiner has requested applicant to elect an invention, or one of these groups of claims, for prosecution on the merits.

It is noted that this is the second such restriction requirement, and it hoped no further restrictions will be made because of the delay it imposes on the prosecution of the application. With regard to the current restriction requirement, applicant would like to point out that he believes that the grouping of the pending claims was incorrect when claims of Group IV were listed as a separate invention. In referring to the Group I claims, claims 60-93 and 104-114, the Examiner states that these claims are "drawn to a system and corresponding method for generating broadcast television stereo signals or encoding left and right audio signals in accordance with the BTSC standard." It is submitted that some of the claims of the group are broader than that. For example, included in this group of claims, is claim 111 which describes "a digital adaptive weighting system," which is not limited to encoders, but can include decoders.

Group IV (which includes independent claim 101 and dependent claims 102 and 103), on the other hand, is characterized by the Examiner as being "drawn to a method of setting the gain of a wideband compression unit in a digital adaptive weighting system". While it is true that claim 98 is clearly described in this way (it begins, "A method of setting the gain of a wideband compression unit in a digital adaptive signal weighting system..."), claim 101 does not refer to gain setting at all.

Rather, claim 101 (and hence dependent claims 102 and 103) begins with "A digital adaptive signal weighting system..." and while the claim is not restricted to encoding (decoding, for example, is an obvious extension), it falls much more in line with claim 111 and others in Group I. Therefore, applicant requests that claims 101-103 be included in Group I, and removed from Group IV. Further, applicant suggests that claim 97 (now in Group III) and claim 98 (now in Group IV) be grouped together, as both

are drawn to specific methods of calculating, storing, and retrieving specific values which are then used to set the wideband gain of a digital adaptive signal weighting system.

Accordingly, applicant elects, with traverse, the Group I claims, claims 60-93 and 104-114, to prosecute in the present application. In addition, applicant requests that claims 101-103 be grouped with the claims of Group I so that Group I includes claims 60-93 and 101-114. Finally, applicant requests that claims 97 and 98 be combined as a single group. Assuming the foregoing, applicant reserves the right to file separate divisional applications directed to the Group II claims 94-96, Group III claims 97 and 98, and Group V, claims 99-100 to pursue in a separate applications, with Group IV being eliminated by virtue of the new grouping of the claims.

Accordingly, an early and favorable action on Claims 60-93 and 101-114 is therefore earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney to resolve any unresolved issues in the present application.

In connection with the foregoing matter, please charge any additional fees which may due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-1133.

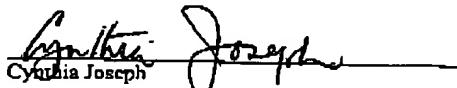
Respectfully submitted,
McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP

Date 8.8.06


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being faxed to Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 at fax number 571.273.8300 on the date indicated below.

Date: August 8, 2006


Cynthia Joseph